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April 1965

Number 4

ECOLOGY OF THE HIMALAYA

Our regular April meeting will feature the high Himalaya. Our speaker will be Dr. Lawrence W. Swan. Dr. Swan was a member of the 1960-1961 Himalayan Mountaineering and Scientific Expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary and the 1954 California Himalayan Expedition to Makalu. The talk will be illustrated and will deal with the ecology of birds, insects and other animals and plants in the environs of the Abominable Snowman. Dr. Swan is Professor of Biology at San Francisco State College.

This meeting will be held **Thursday, April 8**, in Oakland. The evening will start with a no-host dinner scheduled for **6:30 p.m.** at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue near Perkins. (Price of dinner will vary with your selection from the regular menu but will probably run around \$1.50 to \$2.00.) Our regular meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park. Lovely's and the Natural Science Ccenter are within very easy walking distance of each other so you will only need to park once. Plan to come and bring friends both for dinner and the meeting if possible — but for the meeting in any event. You'll enjoy it.

THOMAS B. WILLIAMSON, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL

Wednesday, April 7, to Sunol Valley Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 at MacArthur Blvd. and 55th Ave., Oakland, for directions and to pick up passengers. If you live beyond the meeting point, be at the San Francisco Water Temple entrance just outside Sunol by 9:30. From San Francisco take the A/C N bus at 7:47, or in the Eastbay take bus 34 or 57, in any case getting off at MacArthur Blvd. and 55th Ave. Leader, Marshall Jencks, 534-9353.

Saturday, April 10, Bay Farm Island. Shorebirds in spring plumage should be abundant. Meet at 9 a.m. at Lincoln Park, Santa Clara and High St., Alameda. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and friends. Leader, Elsie Roemer, 522-0941.

Sunday, April 11, above trip will be repeated by the same leader.

Saturday, April 17, to the slopes of Mount Diablo. Birds and flowers should be abundant at this time. Meet at the south entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park at 8 a.m. To reach the park, drive to Danville and turn east. Leader to be announced.

Sunday, April 25, to Farallon Islands on Privateer II. Departure will be from Berkeley Harbor at 5:30 a.m. and a later pick-up of passengers in San Francisco. Complete information as to time, clothing, etc. will be sent to all who reserve space. Fee: \$9.50 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail with your name, address, and PHONE NUMBER to Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson, 4 Willow Lane, Kensington, Calif. 94707. Names will be placed on passenger list in the order received. Space is limited. Leader, Robert O. Paxton.

Saturday, May 1, to McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, southwest of Livermore. Orioles, phainopeplas, western kingbirds, yellowbilled magpies, and Lewis' woodpeckers are usually seen. Meet in Livermore one block beyond the tall flagpole on Livermore Ave. at 9 a.m. Allow about one hour's driving time from Oakland. Leader, Erline Hevel, MO 1-4251.

Sunday, May 2, the McCoy Ranch trip will be repeated. Leader, Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163.

Saturday, May 1, Patterson Pass. Meet **6 a.m.** near the flagpole, Livermore. Leader, Marie Mans, 848-5186.

Proposed trip for long-range planning: **Friday-Sunday, May 21-23**, Yosemite National Park. For accommodation information write Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson, 4 Willow Lane, Kensington, Calif. 94707 or phone 525-2702 evenings. — MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*

FOR THE CHILDREN

The next meeting for the children will be led by Miss Linda Krause. She will meet you on **Saturday, April 24**, at 10:30 a.m. at the south entrance to the Fleischhacker Zoo on Merced Boulevard. You can get to the zoo by public transportation on L streetcar or number 18 bus. For those who come by private car there is usually parking space along Merced Boulevard, opposite the Girl Scout Camp Merced. You will have a walk around the zoo and will be discovering how animals make use of their teeth, claws and tails.

Bring your lunch and if you are eight years of age or younger, bring a grown-up with you because no grown-ups can come without children. The trip will end at about 1 o'clock.

How Animals Hunt and Escape From Their Enemies

Animals all have some means of protecting themselves and of getting food. Nature has given each of them weapons for defense and also tools for collecting their food. If animals feed upon grass they have sharp-edged front teeth for pulling and cutting grass and sharp, flat molars in back for chewing it up. And because their teeth are not constructed for killing and attacking animals they have various other ways by which they can escape from those animals which might kill them. First, most of them have long, thin legs so that they can run fast, second they may have horns or antlers to stab with and third, they may have coloring which makes them hard to find. For instance, a deer is much the same color as the land he grazes in and the baby deer, or fawn, has spots so that it can hide in the shade of trees where the light shines through in splotches.

Animals of the dog family hunt for their food, often running in packs. Their thin legs enable them to cover the ground quickly. Their nose is

sharp and held far in front of their body. This is important for them as a dog smells its prey and has a far better sense of smell than of vision. You may have noticed this with your own dog, which recognizes most of your family not by the way they look but by their odor. Wolves, foxes, coyotes and hyenas are all dogs — that is, they belong to the dog family.

Lions, tigers, leopards and ocelots are cats and hunt for their prey in a quite different manner. They stalk it. That is, they creep up on it and therefore have paws into which the claws can be retracted like a sword into a scabbard. (Dogs don't have claws at all. They have toenails. That is why you can distinguish the footprints of a dog from those of a cat, for the nails can always be observed in a dog's and never in those of a cat.) Furthermore, a cat has large eyes that enable it to see in dim light. It also has a flat face because it does not smell out its prey but searches for it. Both cats and dogs have large ears in order to remain on the look-out for their enemies.

Animals use their tails for many purposes. To the monkey it is an extra hand when he wants to hang from a branch. A squirrel can jump and keep rightside up because its long, bushy tail helps it to keep its balance. A fox uses its tail, too, for this purpose and also as a blanket when it curls that warm, bushy tail around itself when it goes to sleep.

Some animals are protected from enemies by their very size. An elephant is so huge that it can crush smaller animals which might bother it and a mouse is so small that it can hide away out of danger in the tiniest crack underneath a rock.

Some snakes kill their prey with poison fangs and some snakes wind themselves so tightly about their prey that they can kill by crushing. For this reason, these snakes, the boas, have strong muscles. That is why so many of our constricting, or crushing snakes have large, thick bodies in order to allow room for heavy muscles.

While you are at the zoo watching the animals be on the look-out for the tools with which each has been provided for its own protection and in order to find its own food.

It should be fun to go out with Linda, who tells me that she is "really looking forward to" this trip.

Have a good time and start wondering why the giraffe has such a long neck.
— JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

PLEASE NOTE — In the December issue of the *Gull* I made the erroneous statement that mistletoe berries are juicy and good to eat. It was called to my attention by Mrs. Paul P. Hodon that the berry is actually poison and that people have died from eating them. I followed this up by communicating with John Thomas Howell of the California Academy of Sciences, who confirms Mrs. Hodon's statement. I sincerely trust that no-one has experimented with eating the berries after my grievous and unpardonable error. Please note: MISTLETOE BERRIES ARE POISONOUS and should under no circumstances be eaten. — JANET NICKELSBURG

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Week, March 7 to 14 in California, was again observed in many ways by the Oakland Park Department and the Oakland Public Schools. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls sent representatives to a kickoff tree planting on Monday, March 8, at Pleasant Valley Court between Piedmont and Moraga Avenue. The Park Naturalists were scheduled to give Conservation Week assemblies at ten public schools — in some cases two assemblies at a school to reach all pupils. Special "Teacher Information" kits left at each school included material from the National Audubon Society, California Conservation Council, Save-the-Bay Association and naturalists' bulletins. Special conservation displays at the Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, will continue through April.

The local press was very cooperative. Besides listing all public events scheduled for Conservation Week, the Oakland *Tribune* carried an article on the plight of the golden eagle (which we hoped would be followed by subsequent articles on the lesser birds of prey).

We want to compliment Station KQED — Channel 9 — and Georg Treichel for the excellent series, "The Nature of Conservation," which appears on Monday evenings at 8. Distinguished guests have been interviewed and considerable footage of film on current problems has been shown.

"How to Teach Wilderness Conservation" is the subject of a new 32-page brochure just published by the Sierra Club through the Conservation Education Committee of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. It contains a wealth of references to publications, films and agencies, which will help any teacher or leader. The brochure sells at 50¢ to defray costs. A set of slides which graphically illustrate wilderness family experiences will soon be made available for loan with this brochure. — PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

ROSENBERG GRANT FOR NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Golden Gate Audubon Society is happy to announce the receipt of a grant from the Rosenberg Foundation to cover the operating expenses of the new training program in outdoor education for adult leaders. Phyllis Lindley has scheduled sessions at Berkeley's Aquatic Park for elementary and student teachers, recreation workers, camp counselors, day camp leaders, youth group leaders and parents. For schedule and enrollment details, please phone 848-4043.

THREAT TO THE SHRINKING BAY

The City of Oakland wants to destroy another piece of the shrunken San Francisco Bay. Oakland's port authority has applied to the U.S. Corps of Engineers for a revision of federal pierhead and bulkhead lines to permit filling 130 acres to form a peninsula extending some 3,000 feet into deeper water. The Port says it must have this development in order to accommodate "the largest tankers and cargo vessels."

The *Save San Francisco Bay Association* is protesting on the grounds (1) that the project would damage other navigation interests, (2) that it

would destroy important fish and wildlife habitat and (3) would be contrary to an overriding public interest.

Migratory birds of importance to the entire Pacific Flyway depend upon the shallow waters proposed to be filled, and increased pollution is almost certain to result — *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*, March 1.

On February 28 the Save San Francisco Bay Association wrote a letter of protest to **Col. Robert H. Allan**, District Engineer, 100 McAllister St., San Francisco, 94102, and asked him for a public hearing on this proposed extensive fill.

CONDOR PROTECTION BILL

An important bill has been introduced in the California Legislature to increase the penalty for breaking the law that protects the California Condor (making it the same as in existing law protecting the sea otter).

It is Senate Bill 261, introduced by Senators Lagomarsino, McCarthy, Christensen, Burns, and Stiern, and co-sponsored by Assemblyman Henson. The present law limits the penalty that can be imposed by the courts for taking or injuring a condor to a jail sentence of up to 6 months, or a fine of not more than \$500, or both. Senate Bill 261 would double the penalty, making a violation affecting the Condor punishable by "imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding one year, or a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both."

This bill has been referred to the Senate Fish and Game Committee, of which Senator Aaron W. Quick is chairman; and to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, of which Mrs. Pauline Davis is chairman. The bill has the support of the State Fish and Game Department.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With important conservation measures before our State Legislature and our National Congress it is important that we read the newspapers for progress on these measures. Each of us should let his elected representatives know how he feels about these legislative proposals. Write — and get your interested friends to do likewise.

A good teacher frequently invites his students to "come and see." If each would invite his friends to "come and see" and to join our local and national Audubon societies we could double our membership. We get a terrific bargain by becoming members of two societies and in obtaining the wonderful *Audubon Magazine*, all for \$8.50 individual, or \$12.50 family, membership per year. Send applications to any officer with the check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society. We will be happy to be flooded with applications for membership.

Last year my request for picture possibilities resulted in some good owl pictures, and much time trying to get the help of a red-tailed hawk family at their nest. In the latter case, my exposures were disappointing to me because of the lack of bird cooperation. However, my knowledge of and admiration for red-tailed hawk life was greatly increased by the many hours of trying to get photographs. If you think of any picture possibilities, I

would appreciate a post card or a phone call telling me how I can get in touch with you. — A. WARREN LARSON, *President*

THORNTON FIELD TRIP

On February 21 twenty-two cars and forty-three people met at Thornton at 9:30 a.m. Al Parker from Sacramento Audubon had some money from Mr. Goethe to pay for coffee for everyone. There was a heavy fog in spots, but it soon burned off. Later in the day it was warm, almost hot. Fifty-one species of birds were seen. The highlight was seeing about four hundred sandhill cranes with two little brown cranes and making a lot of noise. We saw the cranes on Woodbridge Road. On Peltier Road we saw a great horned owl, a number of common gallinules, a green heron, and a tree swallow. We did not see any swans and only a few white-fronted geese flying. It was a little late in the season; the fields were plowed and some were planted. The farmers had drained the fields of water from earlier rains.

Additional species observed were: pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, snow goose, mallard, pintail, cinnamon teal, ruddy duck, turkey vulture, white-tailed kite, red-tailed hawk, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, California quail, ring-necked pheasant, coot, killdeer, snipe, greater and lesser yellowlegs, avocet, California and ring-billed gull, belted kingfisher, red-shafted flicker, acorn woodpecker, Nuttall's woodpecker, black phoebe, scrub jay, crow, bushtit, marsh wren, mockingbird, robin, ruby-crowned kinglet, water pipit, loggerhead shrike, English sparrow, western meadowlark, red-winged and Brewer's blackbird, starling, house finch, white-crowned and song sparrow. — PHIL SMITH, *Leader and Historian*.

WATCH FOR SEABIRDS WITH COLORED STREAMERS

Thousands of far-traveling ocean birds of many kinds are being captured, marked, and released on mid-Pacific islands in a widespread study of seabird migration by the Smithsonian Institution. Although it is known that some species of birds perform remarkable annual migrations of 10,000 miles or more over the North and South Pacific Oceans, the regular travels of most species are unknown or poorly understood.

To learn more about the migrations of seabirds, Smithsonian ornithologists have captured and marked over 300,000 birds of 28 different kinds in the Central Pacific with standard, numbered, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum legbands. Of these, over 60,000 have been marked with 4-inch colored plastic leg streamers.

Anyone sighting a bird with a colored leg-streamer anywhere in the Pacific Ocean area is asked to cooperate by recording the name or description of the kind of bird wearing the streamer, the color of the streamer, the date seen, and the latitude and longitude or approximate location of sighting. All information on birds with colored leg-streamers should be sent as soon as possible to the Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. Every cooperator will be advised where the banded or color-marked bird was tagged.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 1966

Golden Gate Audubon Society has appointed Mrs. Roberta Long as Liaison Officer for the National Audubon Society's 62nd Annual Convention to be held in Sacramento,

November 12-16, 1966. Dr. Charles M. Coethe, conservationist, humanitarian, and philanthropist of Sacramento, Calif., has been appointed honorary chairman of the Convention. Recognition of the achievements of Dr. Coethe was made by many professional, civic, religious, and conservation organizations on the occasion of his 90th birthday, March 28.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkely, Mrs. Frances M. Essig, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Matson, Mrs. A. C. Olson, Mrs. Joyce D. Schnobrich, Miss Bernice K. Skinner; from Hillsborough, Mrs. A. William Barkan; from Oakland, Mr. Norman Fitzwater; from Piedmont, Dr. and Mrs. Justin Dorgeloh, Mrs. W. E. Hart; from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony C. Gilbert, Mr. Roderick D. MacMillan, Miss Hildegard F. Serbin; from Walnut Creek, Mrs. Rix Maurer, Jr.

MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman*

NATURAL HISTORY BOOK FAIR — Oakland's Snow Museum of Natural Science is presenting a special exhibit, "Natural History Book Fair," which will be on view through April. Featured are rare early 17th century collector's items with hand-colored illustrations, first editions and original paintings from which the book plates were made. Admission is free. The Snow Museum, 274 - 19th St., is open from 10 to 5 daily and Sundays.

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch *In Memory of Harold G. Peterson*:

Gifts of Mrs. Harold G. Peterson, George and Robert Peterson, Paul, Marion and Jimmy Covell, Miss Ivander MacIver, Mrs. Ethel E. Richardson, Mrs. Roberta Long, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Leinbach, A. Warren Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Dockham, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Dockham, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dockham, Jean, Lee, Ken and Rich Stallcup, Mr. and Mrs. David McCarroll and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Syverstsen, Phil Newcomb family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Mullinix, San Francisco Audit Office of Dept. of Employment, David Elsasser, Mrs. Serene Elsasser, Horace Nelson, Gordon and Janet Magill, Maxine and Willard Bergh, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Willard, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey E. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Grillos, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Freeman, Miss Bertha Underhill, Mrs. Morgan Watt, Mrs. Sarah Golub, Mrs. Anna Oman, Ernest Carlson, Russell and Helen Freeman, Olive R. Garrett, Maxine L. Soldati, Marvin G. Gunderson, Aileen Pierson, Erlene Hevel, Phyllis Lindley, Florence Plymell.

In Memory of:

Capt. Roger Simpson, U.S.N.
Dr. Frances Carter
Bert Harwell (memorial nature trail)
Catherine Bauer Wurster
Alma French Kilgore
Mrs. Alma Stultz
Helen Van Orden
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Gift of:

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Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas V. Brower
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Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Zimmermann
Mrs. Margaret Peterson
Mrs. Roberta Long
Berkeley Garden Club
Mrs. Eleanor Hinkle
Eden Garden Club
Mr. and Mrs. Ivor J. Davies
Margaret Milwain
Berkeley Garden Club
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

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1965

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Canyon Ranch Fund Raising.....	Mrs. Myra Browne.....	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921..
Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.			
Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.			

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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